

Appendix F: Abbreviations and Glossary

BBS – Breeding Bird Survey
CMR – Codified Massachusetts Regulations
CWCS – Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy; this document
DAR – Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (formerly DFA, Department of Food and Agriculture)
DCPO – Massachusetts Division of Capital Planning and Operations
DCR – Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (formerly DEM, Department of Environmental Management)
DEP – Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
DFG – Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game; DFW is part of DFG
DFW – Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
E – state or federally listed as Endangered
EM – ecosystem management
EOEA – Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs; DFG, DCR, and DEP are all part of DFG
ERP – Ecological Restoration Project
FSC – Forest Stewardship Council
G__ - see Global and State Ranks, below
GIS – geographic information system; a computerized mapping system
Global Rarity - see Global and State Ranks, below
IBI – Index of Biotic Integrity
LE – federally Endangered
LIP – Landowner Incentive Program
LT – federally Threatened
MassWildlife – Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
MDFW – Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
MEPA – Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act
MESA – Massachusetts Endangered Species Act
MGL – Massachusetts General Law
NatureServe – an international “non-profit conservation organization that provides the scientific information and tools needed to help guide effective conservation action. NatureServe and its network of natural heritage programs are the leading source for information about rare and endangered species and threatened ecosystems.” See <http://www.natureserve.org/aboutUs/> for more information.
NHESP – Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, part of Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
Occurrence – when used in reference to a state-listed species, this means the area inhabited by a population of that species, as defined by NHESP and NatureServe occurrence separation criteria; not exactly equivalent to a sighting or a record of the species
PAC – problem animal control
PIF – Partners in Flight
S__ - see Global and State Ranks, below
SC – state-listed as Special Concern
State Rarity - see Global and State Ranks, below

T – state or federally listed as Threatened
TFC – Target Fish Community
USFWS – United States Fish & Wildlife Service
USGS – United States Geological Survey
WMA – Wildlife Management Area; land owned by the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
WPA – Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act

Global and State Ranks

This information is adapted from NatureServe at <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/ranking.htm>

Global Conservation Status Definitions

Listed below are definitions for interpreting NatureServe global conservation status ranks (G-ranks). These ranks reflect an assessment of the condition of the species or ecological community across its entire range. Where indicated, definitions differ for species and ecological communities.

NatureServe Global Conservation Status Ranks

Basic Ranks

Rank	Definition
GX	Presumed Extinct (species)— Not located despite intensive searches and virtually no likelihood of rediscovery.
GH	Possibly Extinct (species)— Missing; known from only historical occurrences but still some hope of rediscovery.
G1	Critically Imperiled—At very high risk of extinction due to extreme rarity (often 5 or fewer populations), very steep declines, or other factors.
G2	Imperiled—At high risk of extinction due to very restricted range, very few populations (often 20 or fewer), steep declines, or other factors.
G3	Vulnerable—At moderate risk of extinction due to a restricted range, relatively few populations (often 80 or fewer), recent and widespread declines, or other factors.
G4	Apparently Secure—Uncommon but not rare; some cause for long-term concern due to declines or other factors.
G5	Secure—Common; widespread and abundant.

Variant Ranks

Rank	Definition
G#G#	Range Rank—A numeric range rank (e.g., G2G3) is used to indicate the range of uncertainty in the status of a species or community. Ranges cannot skip more than one rank (e.g., GU should be used rather than G1G4).

Rank	Definition
GU	Unrankable—Currently unrankable due to lack of information or due to substantially conflicting information about status or trends. Whenever possible, the most likely rank is assigned and the question mark qualifier is added (e.g., G2?) to express uncertainty, or a range rank (e.g., G2G3) is used to delineate the limits (range) of uncertainty.
GNR	Unranked—Global rank not yet assessed.
GNA	Not Applicable—A conservation status rank is not applicable because the species is not a suitable target for conservation activities.

Rank Qualifiers

Rank	Definition
?	Inexact Numeric Rank—Denotes inexact numeric rank (e.g., G2?)
Q	Questionable taxonomy—Taxonomic distinctiveness of this entity at the current level is questionable; resolution of this uncertainty may result in change from a species to a subspecies or hybrid, or the inclusion of this taxon in another taxon, with the resulting taxon having a lower-priority conservation priority.
C	Captive or Cultivated Only—At present extant only in captivity or cultivation, or as a reintroduced population not yet established.

Intraspecific Taxon Conservation Status Ranks

Intraspecific taxa refer to subspecies, varieties and other designations below the level of the species. Intraspecific taxon status ranks (T-ranks) apply to plants and animal species only; these T-ranks do not apply to ecological communities.

Rank	Definition
T#	Intraspecific Taxon (trinomial)—The status of intraspecific taxa (subspecies or varieties) are indicated by a "T-rank" following the species' global rank. Rules for assigning T-ranks follow the same principles outlined above for global conservation status ranks. For example, the global rank of a critically imperiled subspecies of an otherwise widespread and common species would be G5T1. A T-rank cannot imply the subspecies or variety is more abundant than the species as a whole—for example, a G1T2 cannot occur. A vertebrate animal population, such as those listed as distinct population segments under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, may be considered an intraspecific taxon and assigned a T-rank; in such cases a Q is used after the T-rank to denote the taxon's informal taxonomic status. At this time, the T rank is not used for ecological communities.

State Conservation Status Definitions

Listed below are definitions for interpreting NatureServe conservation status ranks at the state (S-rank) levels. Assigning state conservation status ranks for species and ecological communities follows the same general principles as used in assigning global status ranks. A state rank, however, cannot imply that the species or community is more secure at the state/province level than it is nationally or globally (i.e., a rank of G1S3 cannot occur). State ranks are assigned and maintained by state or provincial natural heritage programs and conservation data centers.

State (S) Conservation Status Ranks

Status	Definition
SX	Presumed Extirpated—Species or community is believed to be extirpated from state/province. Not located despite intensive searches of historical sites and other appropriate habitat, and virtually no likelihood that it will be rediscovered.
SH	Possibly Extirpated (Historical)—Species or community occurred historically in the state/province, and there is some possibility that it may be rediscovered. Its presence may not have been verified in the past 20-40 years. A species or community could become SH without such a 20-40 year delay if the only known occurrences in a state/province were destroyed or if it had been extensively and unsuccessfully looked for. The SH rank is reserved for species or communities for which some effort has been made to relocate occurrences, rather than simply using this status for all elements not known from verified extant occurrences.
S1	Critically Imperiled—Critically imperiled in the state/province because of extreme rarity (often 5 or fewer occurrences) or because of some factor(s) such as very steep declines making it especially vulnerable to extirpation from the state/province.
S2	Imperiled—Imperiled in the state/province because of rarity due to very restricted range, very few populations (often 20 or fewer), steep declines, or other factors making it very vulnerable to extirpation from the state/province.
S3	Vulnerable—Vulnerable in the state/province due to a restricted range, relatively few populations (often 80 or fewer), recent and widespread declines, or other factors making it vulnerable to extirpation.
S4	Apparently Secure—Uncommon but not rare; some cause for long-term concern due to declines or other factors.
S5	Secure—Common, widespread, and abundant in the state/province.
SNR	Unranked—state/province conservation status not yet assessed.
SU	Unrankable—Currently unrankable due to lack of information or due to substantially conflicting information about status or trends.
SNA	Not Applicable —A conservation status rank is not applicable because the species is not a suitable target for conservation activities.
S#S#	Range Rank —A numeric range rank (e.g., S2S3) is used to indicate any range of uncertainty about the status of the species or community. Ranges cannot skip more than one rank (e.g., SU is used rather than S1S4).

Breeding Status Qualifiers

Qualifier	Definition
B	Breeding—Conservation status refers to the breeding population of the species in the state/province.
N	Nonbreeding—Conservation status refers to the non-breeding population of the species in the state/province.
M	Migrant—Migrant species occurring regularly on migration at particular staging areas or concentration spots where the species might warrant conservation attention. Conservation status refers to the aggregating transient population of the species in the state/province.

Note: A breeding status is only used for species that have distinct breeding and/or non-breeding populations in the state/province. A breeding-status S-rank can be coupled with its complementary non-breeding-status S-rank if the species also winters in the state/province, and/or a migrant-status S-rank if the species occurs regularly on migration at particular staging areas or concentration spots where the species might warrant conservation attention. The two (or rarely, three) status ranks are separated by a comma (e.g., "S2B,S3N" or "SHN,S4B,S1M").

Other Qualifiers

Rank	Definition
?	Inexact or Uncertain—Denotes inexact or uncertain numeric rank. (The ? qualifies the character immediately preceding it in the S-rank.)